

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 30-43 and 45-57 are now present in the application. Claim 45 has been amended. Claim 44 has been incorporated into claim 45 and hereby cancelled. Claim 30, 45, 53, 56 and 57 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter &

Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reason for Allowance

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 30-43 and 53-57 are allowed and that claims 45-52 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

However, because the reasons for allowance do not correspond word for word with the allowed independent claim 56, the reasons for allowance should not be in any way construed to limit the scope of the protection offered by the allowed claim 56. In particular, claim 56 does not recite "two or more shafts include one or more shafts arranged so that each center axis of said one or more shafts coincide with a bottom surface of one elastic means among said two or more elastic means; and rest of the shafts arranged so that each center axis of said rest of the shafts coincide with a bottom surfaces of other elastic means among said two or more elastic means" as the Examiner suggested. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 56 should be considered

allowable for the recitations that appear therein and not for the recitations quoted by the Examiner.

In addition, by the present amendment, allowable claim 45 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of its base claim 44. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 45 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamashita, U.S. Patent No. 6,456,062. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, since claim 44 has been incorporated into claim 45 and hereby cancelled, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No. 10/522,548
Amendment dated February 5, 2008
After Final Office Action of December 14, 2007

Docket No.: 5417-0103PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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